

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5569

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO, PINS

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REFS: (A) IR 6 8790487 75

(B) IR 6 8790492 75

SUMMARY: EXPLOSIVE DEVICES WENT OFF OVER WEEKEND IN SIX SEPARATE LOCATIONS IN COUNTRY. MOST POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT WENT OFF IN EARLY MORNING HOURS AT CASCAIS, WHERE PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO WAS STAYING. FINAL SELECTIONS OF SUB-CABINET POSITIONS ARE NOW IN PROGRESS. PS AND PPD ARE EXPECTED TO GET BULK OF POSITIONS -- PERHAPS 20 OF 30; PCP WILL PROBABLY GET FOUR. NAVY VICE CHIEF OF STAFF FILGUERAS SOARES IS SLATED TO TAKE
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AZEVEDO'S POSITION AS NAVY CHIEF ON AN INTERIM BASIS. PCP HAS

INTENSIFIED ITS CAMPAIGN OF SUPPORT FOR VIGOROUS IMPLEMENTATION OF AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM IN THE ALENTEJO. GENERAL CARVALHO AND ADM ROSA COUTINHO LEFT SEPT 21 FOR FIVE-DAY VISIT TO SWEDEN. SUV ("SOLDIERS UNITED WILL WIN") ORGANIZATION ATTACKED SIXTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IN SEPT 21 PRESS CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. BOMBS: SIX RUDIMENTARY BOMBS EXPLODED IN PORTUGAL OVER WEEKEND CAUSING ONLY MINOR PROPERTY DAMAGE. MOST POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT EXPLOSION OCCURRED AT 6 AM SEPT 21 AT THE CASCAIS NAVY CLUB WHERE PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO WAS STAYING (REF A). EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WAS PLACED OR THROWN AT A DOOR TO THE CLUB, AND RESULTED ONLY IN SEVERAL BROKEN WINDOWS AND DAMAGED FURNITURE. DEVICE WAS REPORTEDLY OF SIMILAR TYPE TO THAT USED RECENTLY AGAINST SPANISH EMBASSY AND SHERATON HOTEL. OTHER SMALL BOMBS EXPLODED IN LEIRIA NEAR EQUIPMENT OF "RUSSIAN CIRCUS" VISITING THAT CITY; IN PORTO DE MOS OUTSIDE PHARMACY OWNED BY PCP ACTIVIST; AND AT THE SPANISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN OPORTO (PRESUMABLY RELATED TO CONDEMNATIONS OF BASQUE TERRORISTS). THE INTENDED TARGETS OF TWO OTHER BOMBS IN BATALHA AND CASAL DE AMIERA WERE NOT IDENTIFIED.

2. NEW GOVERNMENT: MINISTERS SWORN-IN SEPT 19 ARE NOW PARTICIPATING IN PROCESS OF SELECTING SECRETARIES OF STATE AND OTHER SUB-CABINET LEVEL OFFICIALS. NEW SECRETARIES OF STATE, TOTALLING 30 OR MORE, ARE EXPECTED TO BE SWORN-IN SEPT. 22 OR SEPT 23.

3. NEW NAVY CHIEF: MEDIA SPECULATION HAS IT THAT CDR FILGUEIRAS SOARES, CURRENTLY NAVY VICE CHIEF OF STAFF, WILL BE NAMED TO REPLACE PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO AS CHIEF OF STAFF. HE IS REPORTED TO ENJOY THE CONFIDENCE OF THE NAVY AFM'S COMMUNIST-SYMPATHIZING LEFT WING, ALTHOUGH WESTERN MILITARY OBSERVERS HERE HAVE FOUND HIM COOPERATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL. (REF B).

4. CUNHAL ON LAND REFRM: PCP LEADER CUNHAL, IN SEPTEMBER 21 SPEECH AT CASEBRES COOPERATIVE NEAR SETUBAL, MADE STRONG PITCH FOR AGRARIAN REFORM AND UNITY OF RURAL "PROGRESSIVE FORCES." CUNHAL WARNED THAT CONSERVATIVE FORCES, ABETTED BY PPD, ARE ATTEMPTING TO UNDERMINE PROGRESS IN LAND REFORM. PCP MEMBERS IN NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD, HE SAID, SEEK TO ENSURE THAT GOV-CONFIDENTIAL

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ERNMENT HONORED ITS COMMITMENTS TO PROCEED WITH AGRARIAN REFORM AND PROTECT REVOLUTIONARY "CONQUESTS" ALREADY WON. CUNHAL MADE SPECIAL APPEAL TO SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED FARMERS, WHO HE ASSERTED SHARED COMMON INTERESTS WITH RURAL PROLETARIAT. PCP HAS CALLED RALLY SEPTEMBER 27 TO KICK OFF CAMPAIGN OF SOLIDARITY WITH ALENTEJO FARM WORKERS.

5. LOCAL POLITICS: TWO INCIDENTS REFLECT GROWING POLITICAL

CONTROVERSY AT MUNICIPAL AND DISTRICT LEVELS:

-- IN OPORTO, LEFTIST SUPPORTERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CLASHED WITH THE POLICE AND NATIONAL GUARD SEPT 19, WHEN THE COUNCIL ATTEMPTED TO MEET DESPITE HAVING BEEN DISMISSED BY CIVIL GOVERNOR, CAL BRANDAO. THE OPORTO PCP SUPPORTED THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND CONDEMNED THE "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY" ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNOR. THE POPULAR ASSEMBLY OF OPORTO, THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMISSION OF WORKERS (CRT) AND THE OPORTO MUNICIPAL WORKERS ALSO ATTACKED THE GOVERNOR. THE GOVERNOR, FIGHTING BACK, EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE NEW MINISTER OF INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION WOULD RECONSTITUTE LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES TO MORE GENUINELY REFLECT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

-- IN PORTALEGRE, THE SOCIALIST PARTY DEMONSTRATED SEPT 20, TO DEMAND THE REMOVAL OF THE CIVIL GOVERNOR, DR. FLORINDO MADEIRA, AND TO INSIST UPON A MORE ORDERLY PROCESS OF AGRARIAN REFORM. THE PORTALEGRE PCP DEFENDED THE GOVERNOR.

6. OTELO AND ROSA COUTINHO VISIT SWEDEN: GEN OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO AND ADM. ROSA COUTINHO, ACCOMPANIED BY CPT. MARQUES JUNIOR AND CDR. DUARTE LIMA, DEPARTED LISBON SEPT 21 FOR A FIVE-DAY VISIT TO SWEDEN AT INVITATION OF PM PALME. IN DEPARTURE INTERVIEW, BOTH OTELO AND ROSA COUTINHO DEFENDED VISIT TO A "SOCIAL-DEMOCRACY" BY REFERENCES TO EXAMPLES OF SWEDISH SUPPORT FOR THIRD WORLD NATIONS, PARTICULARLY CUBA; BOTH REITERATED THEIR PREFERENCE FOR A PORTUGUESE SOCIALISM BASED ON "DIRECT DEMOCRACY." OTELO ALSO STRESSED HIS INTENTION TO DISASSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM SIXTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AND "ENTER DECIDEDLY INTO THE OPPOSITION" WERE THE GOVERNMENT TO SHOW ANY SIGN OF A TURN TO THE RIGHT.

7. SUV ISSUES MANIFESTO: "SOLDIERS UNITED SHALL WIN" (SOLDADOS CONFIDENTIAL

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UNIDOS VENCERAO--SUV), IN SEPT 21 LISBON PRESS CONFERENCE, ISSUED MANIFESTO AND REVEALED PLAN FOR SEPT 25 DEMONSTRATION AT AN UNSPECIFIED SITE. IN ITS MANIFESTO, SUV CLASSIFIED ITSELF AS AN "ANTICAPITALIST AND ANTI-IMPERIALIST UNITARY FRONT, APPEARING AT A MOMENT WHEN FASCIST REACTION IS REORGANIZING." IT DECLARED ITS OPPOSITION TO THE AFM WHICH IT SAID WAS NOW CONTROLLED BY "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ELEMENTS." SUV SPOKESMEN CLAIMED

THAT SUV CONSTITUTED IN THE MILITARY SPHERE WHAT OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL UNITS OF DIRECT DEMOCRACY, SUCH AS WORKERS' COUNCILS AND NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS, CONSTITUTED IN NON-MILITARY SPHERE.

8. COMMENT: WEEKEND EXPLOSIONS SEEM MORE DESIGNED AS WARNING OF POTENTIAL RATHER THAN EFFORT TO CAUSE DEATH OR DESTRUCTION. WHETHER THEY ARE PART OF "MAJOR HAPPENING"

EARLIER PROMISED -- AND THEN CANCELLED -- BY SPINOLA SUPPORTERS IS NOT CLEAR. ACTS ARE WORRISOME REMINDER OF POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE WHICH LIES JUST BELOW THE SURFACE HERE. THEY ONLY BENEFIT THE COMMUNISTS.

9. ALTHOUGH GENERAL OUTLINE OF NEW GOVERNMENT IS SET, HARD BARGAINING IS CONTINUING OVER INDIVIDUAL SECRETARIES OF STATE AND OTHER SUB-CABINET LEVEL POSITIONS. PS AND PPD WILL GET OVERWHELMING PROPORTION OF SECRETARIATS -- PERHAPS 20 OF 30; PCP MEMBERS WILL PROBABLY GET FOUR: LABOR (EMPLOYMENT); AGRICULTURE (AGRARIAN RESTRUCTURING); MERCHANT MARINE; AND SPORTS. OF THE FOUR, AGRICULTURE -- UNDER PS MINISTER LOPES CARDOSO -- IS PROBABLY MOST SIGNIFICANT FROM PARTY STANDPOINT. PCP WILL USE POSITION TO PUSH HARD FOR FURTHER EXPANSION OF CONTROVERSIAL AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM.

10. CUNHAL'S REMARKS AT CASEBRES ARE ANOTHER INDICATION THAT THE PCP INTENDS TO MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT DURING THE TENURE OF NEW GOVERNMENT TO CONSOLIDATE GAINS IN THE AGRARIAN SECTOR MADE UNDER THE GONCALVES ADMINISTRATION. THE PCP HOPES TO FIND AGRICULTURE MINISTER LOPES CARDOSO, A MEMBER OF THE LEFT WING OF THE PS, SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR PLANS.

11. THE DEMONSTRATIONS IN OPORTO AND PORTALEGRE ARE SYMPTOMATIC OF THE STRUGGLE FOR CONTROL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, WHICH WILL INTENSIFY UNDER THE SIXTH GOVERNMENT. AS IT IS DOING IN
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OPORTO, THE PCP WILL MARTIAL ITS RESOURCES AND THOSE OF ITS ALLIES TO RESIST THE REPLACEMENT OF COMMUNIST-DOMINATED LOCAL BODIES. THE PCP HAS THE ADVANTAGES OF ALREADY BEING IN PLACE, AND THUS ONLY NEEDING TO HANG ON THROUGH THREATS OF STRIKES OR POPULAR DEMONSTRATIONS. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE COMMUNISTS CAN BRING SUFFICIENT PRESSURE TO BEAR IN THE NORTHERN CITY OF OPORTO, BUT STRONG DEFENSIVE TACTICS COULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE ELSEWHERE.

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